HARLEQUIN

Original Text by Kathryn Ross

By Love Alone

Yoshimi Natsu

This superproducer has dropped countless platinum hits! Don't take your eyes off him!
The favorite to win has to be Cole Adams.
At last! This year's Grammy Award for best album is about to be announced
And the way he suddenly retired 2 years ago is still fresh in our minds.
Cole himself has also sold millions of albums.
His career as a musician is well-known.
— the winner of the Grammy for best album is...!
And now—
The announcement is beginning! Let's go to the floor.

By Love Alone
Yoshimi Natsu
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Lauren!
They announced the winner!
Cole Adams took the award!
Grip
He's only been producing for 2 years! It's amazing!
Jon! You finish covering the rest! I'm going home!

You're 100 years too inexperienced to pick and choose jobs!
Of course they did!
I'm the cameraman. You're the reporter!
Whaa ?
Grab
No! I turned this job down, but they made me do it!
You'd go into the jungle to cover a story, Lauren! This isn't like you.
I just can't do a story on Cole—!
That's not it, Jon

Are you still worried about that time?
Lauren...
There's Cole's car!
Ow!
Bump
It's too early!
It might be a decoy!
The nerve! Knocking a woman out of the way!
Are you okay, Lauren?
Screech
I'm fine, Jon.
I...

Step
Clack
Step
Step
Step

Want to join me?
Pull!
Whaa?
Cole!
Whaaa!

Dash
Vroom
Hey, you! Who was that woman?
Lauren!
You're her partner, aren't you? What's going on?
You let him take her without a fight?
She was with you, right? What's her relationship to Cole?
This is crazy.
Priorities, man!
That jeeerk!
Cole didn't even *look* at me!

Are you trying to give the media a scoop? Unbelievable!
Mr Adams!
Because I pulled you into my car in front of the cameras?
"Mr. Adams."
How very impersonal.
"Lauren."

... must have forgotten our past as lovers.
!
You ...
C-
Cole!
Yank

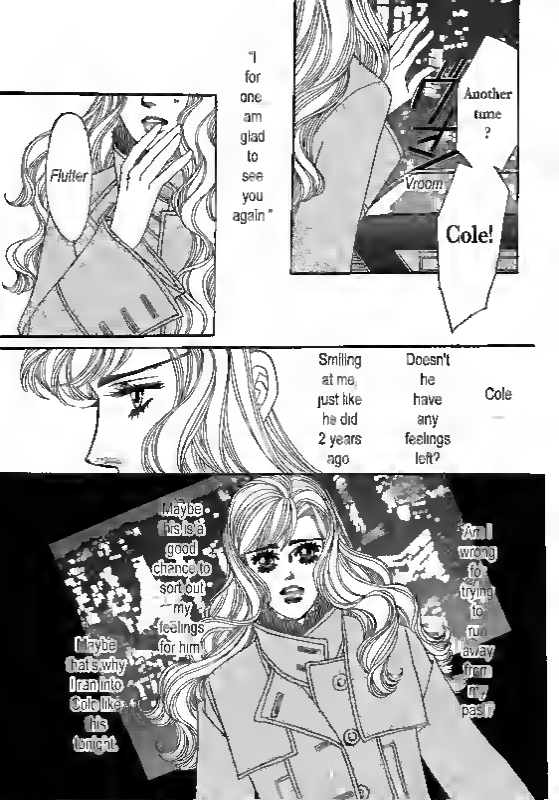
Pound
Pound
I couldn't leave an old flame being knocked around in a crowd.
Besides
What?
You're hurt.
I'm *fine!* Don't touch me there! Aiieeee!
It looks painful.
Aiieee! Let go of my leg, Cole!

What have you been doing these past 2 years?
Gasp
What? All of a sudden, you...
I can't believe I haven't seen you since we broke up.
I haven't seen you once.
I thought as a music reporter, we'd run into each other occasionally.
Laureo ...
Have you been avoiding me?
!
Cole ...

I thought you'd never want to see me again, Cole.
Why?
I mean, I...
We ended so badly, that.
Gasp
I, for one...
...am glad to see you again.

He's pulled me back into the past so easily.
Driver! Stop the car!
Screech
Flut-ter
Flut-ter
The feeling of Cole's fingers on my lips
I remember this
Lauren!
Dash
The past that I want to forget, but can't
I-I didn't think this is how we'd meet again, Cole.
I was only here tonight to do a story.

That's right! I need to get a statement from you!
A state-ment?
Gasp
Smile
So I'm only an interview subject to you now?
Urk
No, Cole! I mean
I know
See you soon.
Huh?

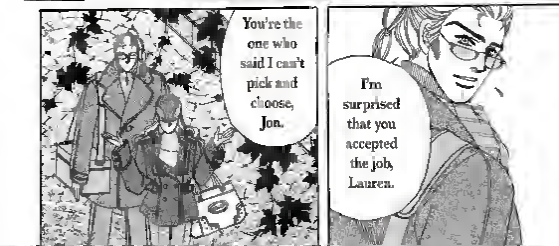

"I for one am glad to see you again"
Another tune ?
Vroom
Cole!
Flutter
Cole
Doesn't he have any feelings left?
Smiling at me, just like he did 2 years ago
Maybe this is a good chance to sort out my feelings for him
Maybe that's why I ran into Cole like this tonight.
Am I wrong to be trying to run away from my past?

Rab-ble
Rab-ble
Great idea, isn't it?
Cole rarely even gives interviews, but you'll stick to him like glue!
Global Records Publishing
An in-depth story on Cole Adams?
Isn't it exciting, Laurel?
We have an exclusive over a man that the rest of the media fights to get time with.
Jab
Most reporters would jump at a chance to cover Cole. Why not you?
Besides ...
You have to make up for not getting a statement from him at the Grammys.
You can't say no!
Clatter
Um... Sir...?

It's an honor. Apparently, he enjoys your articles.
I...
Is that true?
Cole's condition for this story...
...was that you were to be the reporter.
What!
"See you soon."
I know you'll do a great job, Lauren.
So that's what he meant. He already knew we were going to do a piece on him!
Sigh

It's definitely a good chance to sort out my feelings for him.
Thank you!

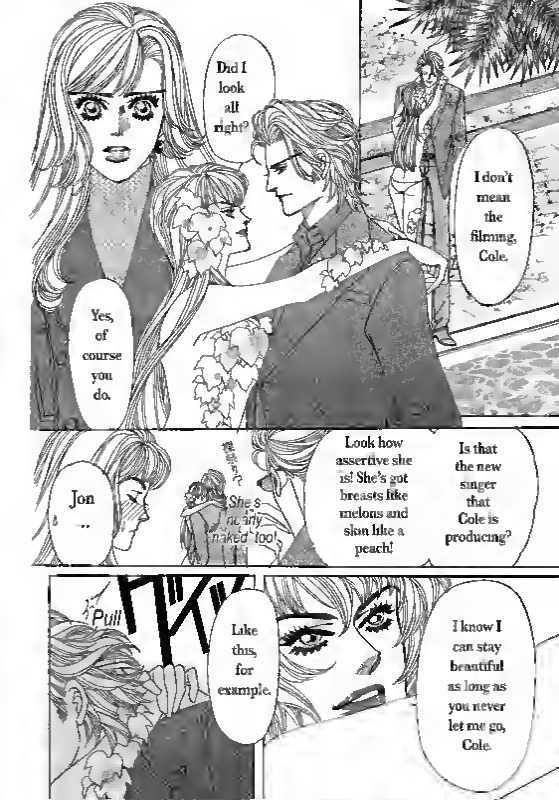
They're filming a music video DVD for a new artist. We can do interviews in between takes.
We get to stay here to do the story?
Wowww! What a fabulous place!


You're the one who said I can't pick and choose, Jon.
I'm surprised that you accepted the job, Lauren.

There will always be plenty of women who take a crack at him, after all.
He was already a famous musician when you were dating him.
The only reason no one found out about you was because of his high-profile scandals with actresses and models.
Yeah, but I'm the only one who knows about you and Cole. Even that's a small miracle.
Having to do a story on your ex-boyfriend
It must be hard for you.
Is that pity I hear?
Just concern, as your best friend.
Cole specifically asked for me to do this story, Jon.
What?

No one doubts your skill as a writer
Forget about your relationship with Cole.
When I last saw Cole, he didn't seem at all concerned about seeing me.
Maybe he really does just like the way I write, like the boss says.
Yeah. Maybe you're right.
They're filming now, but there's a break coming up.
Right this way.
Hahaha! That's the spirit!
Okay! Let's do this!
Exactly

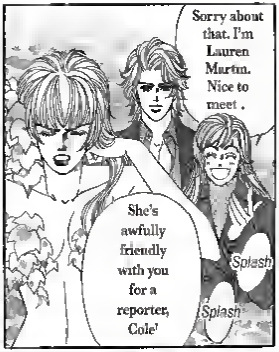
Wow! An indoor pool!
Okay! Cut!
Take five, Donna.
Clasp
How was I, Cole?
The music video is turning out great. Keep it up, Donna.

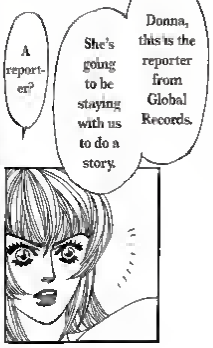

Did I look all right?
I don't mean the filming, Cole.
Yes, of course you do.
Jon ...
She's nearly naked too!
Look how assertive she is! She's got breasts like melons and skin like a peach!
Is that the new singer that Cole is producing?
Pull
Like this, for example.
I know I can stay beautiful as long as you never let me go, Cole.

Whoaa!
ワアッ
Cole!
Dash
ダッ
Cole can't swim!
Hey!
Lauren! What are you—

!
Grab
Jump
Lauren!
Cole! Are you...
Hey!
!
What do you think you're doing?

Lauren! You believed that joke I told you all that time ago?
Haha.
Huh?
Huh?
Cole can't swim ..! What are you ..
Joke...?
Blush
Hmph!
Donna Wade.
Lauren, this is the new singer I'm preparing for her debut.
...


Sorry about that. I'm Lauren Martin. Nice to meet .
She's awfully friendly with you for a reporter, Cole!
Splash
Splash


A report-er?
She's going to be staying with us to do a story.
Donna, this is the reporter from Global Records.

She's an "old friend."
Right?

Come on Lauren! This is no time to be blushing because he talked to you!
Gasp
Um, no! I mean, I've interviewed him before.
"Old friend"?
Blush
Someone said a reporter was coming to the set.
Oh, now I remember.
Splash
All about me!
If you're a friend of Cole's, I imagine you can at least write a good article.
So that means you're my publicist?

Cole told me that he called you to do a story on me.
Um Actually, this story is on Mr Adams.
Isn't that right, Cole?
She's a professional. She can write however she wants.
!

Huh?
...by telling us the story was going to be about him!
Cole planned to get publicity for Donna ...
"However she wants"?
He tricked me!
Ssss
Ssss
I mean, he never even gives 10-minute interviews!
Fwoosh
She did say that we were her publicists or something.
You heard what he said, Jon.
Hm?
But, Lauren, are you sure he wants to make this a joint story?
After all, we're here to do a special on Cole.
This makes perfect sense.
I knew it was strange when he agreed to be interviewed.

I guess "apples" are no match for "melons."
Apples
Cole said I can write however I want.
That means I'm going to have to write something about her, whether I like it or not.
Stop kidding around! I'm going to set him straight about Donna!
Step
I can answer that right now
Oh!
The door was open. I could hear you shouting all the way down the hall.
Annieeee!!

You heard everything?
You dived into the pool to save me.
I was touched.
Only a little.
Though it's a bit of a shock to see you taking a shower with your new boyfriend
New boyfriend? Do you mean me, Mr Adams?
I know that you're her cameraman
—but you wouldn't be here in the shower if you weren't more than that.
I'll have you know that Lauren and I are practically like *sisters*
Don't get the wrong idea! I already have a man.
And I'm a one-man kind of guy!
Slam

Sisters...? Doesn't he mean "like brother and sister"?
He knows what he said. More importantly, he's an excellent cameraman.
You look like a floating head
You tricked me. Didn't you, Cole?
I don't know what you mean.
If you wanted publicity for Donna Wade—
—you didn't have to tell us otherwise.
Fwoosh
You could have gotten anyone in the media to come here.
!?

It will be faster for you to see it yourself
Cole!
What are you doing..?
What..?
Click
Watch.
Lauren.

Donna's music video...! What a voice! I can feel it throughout my body!
And her performance...
It's so dynamic!
This is Donna Wade.
Her singing and appeal are phenomenal.

Being the first reporter to write about her is quite an opportunity.
There shouldn't be any problem putting in a few extra lines about her
Soon, the media will come after her
She's going to be a star, Lauren
I've discovered a real gem.
I don't like being used, Cole.
What?
You chose me to write this article...
...because you thought you could have me write whatever you want, didn't you?

You're going to let an exclusive go to another reporter?
I came here thinking the story was only about you.
Maybe we can write about Donna another time.
What if I did?
!
Even if that happens, I won't be your puppet!
Lauren!
What do you think of Donna?

What do you mean...? She's the gem you discovered, isn't she?
I want the opinion of the woman who made the musician...
...Cole Adams" world-famous.
Don't say it like that, Cole! I was just a fan.
You may not care about me anymore since I stopped singing...
...but I still want your opinion
What do you want me to say?
She'll probably become everything you're expecting.
After all, you've always gotten everything you wanted!

Except you.
Lauren!
Why
Why did you have to say that now Cole...?

Snap
Snap
Snap
That's it. Just like that.
Give us a bigger smile.
Donna!
Huh? Well, yes. But...
You said it was going to be a special on Cole, since he never does interviews, boss!
What! You don't care if we include Donna in the article?
For now, I suppose. Lauren is covering her bases just in case.
I'm impressed. She's taking out "insurance."
Since you're taking photos of her, it looks like you'll include Donna, after all.

Haha! A predator. That's exactly right.
You know how people are drawn to danger? She's got that.
Like a wild animal, almost. A predator
All jokes aside, she makes a great photo subject.
Are you serious, Lauren?
Donna isn't insurance anymore. The boss says to cover her
Tap
The boss is right
He decided it will be good for business.
Yeah, I just got off the phone with him.

Did you have something to do with this, Cole?
No. Your boss's insincts as a reporter must have prevailed.
Yeah? I guess my instincts must be rusty. I'm so sorry.
Don't look so smug.
By the way, Lauren. We can make some time tonight for an interview.
Really?
It will have to be after I go back to the office. Or you could come along.
Huh?
Jon, could we do the photo session another time?
Jon!
Sure.

It's all right if you're too scared
Then Cole and I will be alone together
But...
It wouldn't make sense to do it in the car
Fine, then.
I'm not scared of you.
Flut-ter
Let's get going, Ms. Martin

Why did those two break up in the first place?
Oh, brother.
TDR Records HQ
I've confirmed they have no objections.
What's happening with what I asked about?
Right.
I'll leave the rest of these forms to you
Thanks for waiting.
Lauren?
It was the first hit after his debut and we celebrated till dawn
Oh, I remember the song on this platinum single

What is it?
You're a real management type now.
Listening to you, it's hard to beheve you used to be a musician.
I remember you saying that you thought I was being reckless.
Slip
I was shocked to hear that you were buying a major record label like TDR
Back when you were still singing
It's all so amazing.
But now, you have 3 record labels and good investments in many other businesses.
I was really worried about you

Shall we get going?
How greedy. God must really be watching out for you.
Flap
All of it.
What's your real job, Cole?
Producer or businessman?
What about the interview?
I'm hungry. We can do it over dinner
All right.
You like ethnic food, don't you? This place is getting good reviews.
This is an interesting choice of restaurant.
It's so strange but it's not uncomfortable at all.
Somehow he's taken control of this situation Just like before...

So I've heard.
I've wanted to come, actually. I couldn't get a reservation
You're finally enjoying yourself.
Since we met up again, your face keeps going from red to green, like a traffic light.
You haven't smiled at all.
A traffic light?
Welcome, Mr. Adams. Are you ready to order?
Oh! Well, then, I'll have...
What! I'm losing control. This almost seems like a date!
Oh, that's too spicy for you, Lauren.

Flut-
ter
Flut-
ter
What's wrong with me?! I can't breathe. Just having Colin near me... It's really as if...
I think you'd enjoy the shrimp here.
You still remember what I like...?
You sound surprised.
Well, it's already been 2 years since we...
No, Lauren ...
It's *only* been 2 years since we broke up.

Tap
I.
I almost forgot! Let's do the interview, Cole.
I have to stop being taken in by him or I'll never get this interview!
This is what I came for tonight. Not to talk about old times.
All right. What do you want to know?
There's one thing...
The reason for your retirement from singing is still a mystery.

The timing was right.
That's all.
...it was such a shock.
When you suddenly announced you were quitting, 2 years ago
Your singing career was a huge success.
It was far too early to call it quits!
Cole!
The timing?
The place we first met.
What? Where?
Come with me.

I don't remember this club being so small and old.
There were always so many people squeezed in here.
It closed down 6 months ago.
Rab ble
Rab ble
Rab ble
It's a shame. It's like a part of our past is disappearing.
Really?
The heat, the smell of sweat.
The cheers and jeers.
The stage shaking when the crowd danced to the loud music.

This is where we first met.
Yeah You were just a member in a no-name band.
Do you remember, Lauren?
You came barging into the dressing room, wanting to do an interview.
Uh
We were so happy someone from the media had come, but you were still a student.
You said that someday you would be a reporter for a music magazine.
And that we should "reserve" an interview for you.
It was so silly of me.
We thought you were funny.
Asking to reserve an interview with a band no one knew would become famous.
Tap
I was in love.

And I was right. I was happy for you
When I first saw and heard your band .
I was sure you were going to be huge!
You were my goddess of fortune. But now. . .
The article you wrote about us was our first step toward stardom.
I can't sing anymore

Jump
It was about a year before we broke up.
I started noticing my voice was failing.
The doctor told me what I had to do.
If I kept at it, I would have lost the ability to talk, let alone sing.
Quit.

Cole!
You never told me that!
I didn't know what to do.
I panicked, thinking it would end my career as a singer
I...
..after that incident.
That's why I couldn't even comfort you –

Stop it!
Why would you tell me all this now?
Why did you keep it to yourself?
Why didn't you tell me while I was still with you?
Lauren!

We met at that tiny little club

drew us together and we started sharing an apartment

It wasn't long before our mutual attraction

Drunk on the sweet days we spent together.

We were in love.

We both put all of our energy into our work.

I also became a reporter, like I always wanted

Then Cole had his debut, and he became a top star in the blink of an eye

I really believed that those fulfilling days would last forever.

Until that day ...

Welcome home, Cole!

Today might be a special day for us.
Aren't they beautiful? I went all out.
Lauren! It's like a flower shop in here.
A special day?
First of all, welcome back from your world tour! It was great.
Is that what you meant by special? You should have come to the wrap party.
No, that's not all.
I have something really important to tell you.
Now? I'm really tired tonight.
Sleepy
Yawn
Hey! Don't go to sleep yet, Cole!

Then we'll exchange rings at the press conference. Don't worry, I have it planned out.
I'll have my staff announce it.
It's all right. If it's about our engagement announcement.
I can't fit it into my schedule for months, but—
Zzz
Hey! That wasn't what I wanted to talk about..
Smile
Oh, well. I'll tell you tomorrow.
"You're going to be a father next year, Cole."

I should go to the hospital. Something is wrong
What's going on? My stomach has been hurting for days.
Ow...!
Drop
And time went by.
But Cole was busy with the other businesses he'd started, and rarely came back to the apartment.
I kept missing my chance to tell him the news.
Oh!
Ding Dong
Cole!... Please come home... I'm scared.
I won't be back for another week.
What?
I have to go back to the studio after this.
Welcome back! You finished early!
Click
I'm home.

Right, you said you needed to tell me something.
Keep it short. I'm leaving Soon.
!
Wait. Let me talk before you go. I've been waiting to tell you...
Who do you think you are?
I told you it's important, and you tell me to keep it short?
What?
... you've taken on more than you can handle!
That's just because ...
Don't get upset. I told you, I'm busy.

Are you trying to become a business-woman?
Why are you trying to find other projects?
You know what I mean! The industry is in an uproar about you, buying up record labels!
I thought music was your dream! That it meant everything to you!
What do you know?
Gasp
Pause
That's enough. Why are we arguing about this?
I won't be back for a while. It will be better for both of us.
Cole!

Shud-
der
!
Ah!
That's
not
what I
wanted
to ..!
Crash
Lauren!
!?

It hurts...
Lauren.
Where? Where does it hurt?
Cole, Don't leave me alone...
This is bad. I'll call a doctor!
It's all right. I'm just going to make the call
Pound
Pound
N-No...
Okay. It will be faster if we drive. Can you stand?
Someone help ...!
Pound
Pound
Lau-ren!
Help ...

I never thought something like this would happen.
This must have been what you were trying to tell me.
The doctor told me you were 3 months pregnant.
...Save our baby!
You must have been so worried, since I never had any time to talk.
I'm sorry.
...would you have been happy?
Cole... If you knew about the baby...

Of course!
But...
...Maybe this was for the best...
"I can't make you happy"
That was the end of our future together
Rab ble
Rab ble
Rab ble
Lauren!

Don't say that you're giving up this story.
Grab
Cole ...
I don't want it to be like before ...
...running away and losing sight of what's important.
I finally get to see you again, and I won't make the same mistake.

Then let me ask you something, Cole...
Did you think that I would stop loving you...
...just because you weren't a musician anymore?
...because I didn't know about your voice.
I criticized you for starting work that had nothing to do with your singing...
If I knew, I would have accepted that your life was taking you to new places, other than your music career.

I didn't believe that I could make you happy.
... But ...
At the time, I had lost confidence in myself.
Without my music career, and not knowing if I would succeed at my other businesses ...
Thinking back now, I should never have said losing our child "was for the best."
I never wanted the rich lifestyle or expensive apartments.
Cole!

You were all I needed to be happy!
I wasn't the only one who was still carrying the weight of our breakup.
Now that we've cleared the air about what happened...
Is this the real end?
...Or is it the beginning of something new?

Cole! Where have you been?
Creak
Slam
I've been looking all over for you.
Hello, Donna. I had to do the interview after going back to the office
Just the two of you? What about the cameraman?
Never mind. We're filming again tomorrow. Get some sleep.
Hey! It's not even bedtime for preschoolers yet.
Lord Sheldon is waiting!
What?

Lauren.
That's right! He said he was returning from his vacation tonight.
I should have taken you off somewhere.
Where?
Blush
D-Do we? Um... Who's Lord Sheldon, Donna?
Jump
Is it my imagination, or do you two seem like more than just "old friends"?

I see. It's a wonderful place.
It's because of him we're using this mansion for shooting.
Lord Sheldon is a friend of Cole's.
Cole and I stayed here on vacation before.
He said it would be the perfect place to film my debut video.
This place holds a lot of memories for us.
How did you meet Cole, Donna?
On his last tour before retiring,
I was one of his back chorus members.

Donna
Yes. Cole really has high hopes for you.
Of course he does!
...and have him take me into this paradise.
I'm the luckiest girl in the world!
To have Cole see me in my tiny role...
My future will be brilliant.
Tap
I don't want anyone to get in the way.
That's why...

Can she tell that Cole and I have a history?
It sounded like she was saying that Cole belongs to her.
Tap
Tap
Tap
No that's impossible
This is Lord Sheldon and his wife.
Lauren ...
I can't imagine that he'd want the truth about us to come out
Cole doesn't seem to be hiding anything
How about throwing a party to take the stress off, honey?
Ah, but time off is very important
Fine, thank you. I feel out of place in this gorgeous mansion
I hear you're a music reporter. How's the business?
Ms. Martin, I'd like to fit you for a dress.
Me?

Wow!
Amanda works as a designer.
Hey, camera-man!
Donna?
Can I ask you some-thing?
You should ask Lauren about scheduling. I just take the pictures.
It's about that reporter.
What's her connection to Cole?

"Were"...?
Meaning you don't think they are now?
I want to know whether they just did business together
...or if they were lovers.
What?
Grab
Ow!
So there is something going on with them?
You have no right to invade their privacy
What does that have to do with you, anyway?
What's with that girl? It's like she has the hots for Cole
H-
How should I know?

We'd better start getting ready for her interview
Donna's profile, Jon? That was quick.
Flap
I had the office send it over so we can know the enemy before we take her on.
No, this isn't for work
W-Wait a minute. You don't think that Cole and I are
You should know, that girl is after Cole.
Enemy?
I could tell that he had a reason for wanting to be alone with you
When he got me to stay behind for the interview
Why not? You worked it out, didn't you?

Lauren?
We talked.
I think we cleared the air
All the more reason to
I don't know what it means that we made up
But ...
I can't tell if it's a real ending or a new beginning.
Oh! Welcome. Thank you for coming.
I've prepared the perfect dress for you.
Let's have you try it on right away!

I suppose I should think of an excuse to get out of it.
Fitting Room
I agreed to let her design me a dress...
but this store looks really expensive.
Uh-oh.
Oh, my!
Aman-da?
Step
You look wonderful, Lauren! It's perfect on you!
Don't you think so, Cole?
!

Cole! What are you doing here?
Donna begged me to bring her here when I told her you were being fitted.
He came here for Donna?
Oh, the reporter. Is he buying a dress for you, too?
Step
What do you think, Cole?

Tap
Tap
You should accept.
He doesn't have to do that.
Cole said he would pay for it, Ms. Martin
What?
It's only a side expense, compared to my dress.
Blush
Lauren!
Donna was joking Don't take it seriously.

I just can't stand being compared to Donna!
Gasp
I don't care if she was joking
Lauren?
Wait... What is this?
It's as if I'm reacting to how Donna is sucking up to Cole.
I'm jeal-ous
Rab-bie
Rab-bie
Flut-ter
Flut-ter
...of Donna ...?
I'm jealous...

Good! You wore the dress.
You look fantastic in it
Thank you for having it delivered to me.
Rab-ble
Rab-ble
Ms. Martin!
I mean, the way you stormed out and left the dress, I thought there was something wrong with it.
Cole asked me to.
No, not at all.
I'm glad. Anyway, have a good time tonight!
Like those two over there.
Forget about work for one evening.
Jump

Cole and Donna are close, aren't they?
I guess they're good partners, publicly and privately
Don't you think so, Ms. Martin?
I see
It would be stranger to imagine Cole without a partner
Still
Why do I feel so conflicted?
Huh? Cole is calling you.
Oh, excuse me.
Step
Lauren!

Cole! Are you trying to leave me alone?
Yank
Huh? Lau...
You're not alone, Donna.
There are lots of people here.
It has to be you, Cole!
I wouldn't care if there were hundreds, thousands!
Grip

Is this a horror movie?
You're like a ghost. Let me in.
Why did you ignore me when I called you?
What do you want?
Lauren, open the door.
Knock
Knock
Lauren!
Creak
You'd have upset Donna if you came to talk to me.
What?
Because I know what's going on.
Why?
And it would cause problems for you, Cole.
It will be harder for me to interview her.
Since when is that your problem?
Amanda said that you and Donna were perfect partners, publicly and privately.

Aiiee!
Bang
Got you!
Cole! Let go of me!
No. I've finally caught you.
Co ...!

Is that supposed to be a joke?
Are you going to make me beg on my knees?
Here? I don't feel like it.
Ah, there. You can hear the music. Let's dance.
!
Why don't you relax tonight, Lauren?
Float

And you really always get upset with me.
Step
What do you think of this new dance, Lauren?
Whew
You really always take things too far!
Cole! Put me down!
Aaee!
You *make* me get upset with you.
You mean, I make you feel things...
...that you don't want to admit to yourself?
Wha...

He's figured it out.
The fact that I still haven't let go of my feelings for him.
Ring Ring Ring
R R R R R

Ring Ring
Click
Ring Ring Ring
Ring Ring Ring
I searched the entire mansion He has to be there
Cole went after that reporter meaning he's in her room
I've always been in love with Cole
Cole is mine!
I need Cole I won't give him up to anyone.
I've never been happier than when he discovered me and offered to produce my debut.
It was like a dream when I was on tour with him in the back chorus.

Cole...?
Sorry, did I wake you? It's dawn.
Oh It's still so early.
What's wrong with me...? I can't look Cole in the eye

...we need to talk
Lauren, once the shooting and Donna's debut press conference are over...
I hope you'll keep some time open.
Ring Ring Ring
Ring
Maybe he's thinking the same thing
Talk? What's this about?
For me.
Hey! Haven't you heard?
Huh?
Boss? Why are you calling so early?
Yes, this is Martin
Maybe we can go back to before when

It's an anonymous tip, but this will be huge!
We got a fax in the middle of the night
Flutter
Cole Adams and the new singer, Donna Wade!
They're getting married!
It doesn't matter! You know that the tabloids will run it on the front page!
W-Wait a minute! It's not an official announcement?
You two are the closest members of the press to him right now, Lauren!
Get the real story! This could be a huge exclusive!
We can't do any less.

Okay! Cut!
That's a wrap, folks! Good work, Donna!
Pound
Pound
Pound
Cole and Donna are getting married...?
Is this what he was talking about...?
It's time to announce your debut at the press conference. Are you ready?
Cole!
Yes .. I'm sure things will get very busy
You're going to be very busy, so take care of yourself.
Starting today, your face will be everywhere.
Of course I am. I've been waiting for this day

Who would tip the tabloids off the night before they print?
Cole's marriage is on the cover of all of them.
Lauren! Look at these!
Flap
Of course he did! This has to be a hoax!
He told me to get the scoop.
The boss said there was a fax in the middle of the night
Lauren!
This tip might not be a hoax.
No, Jon
After all, you and Cole...

Donna!
Are you headed to check with Cole .
Hey, reporter lady!
that the stories are true
Cole will have heard about this by now.
He hasn't tried to contact me about it, which means...
...about our wedding?
Cole ...
Is what they're saying true?
Turn
Smirk

!
You're a reporter Do you believe everything you read?
Lauren.
T-Then it's not true . . ?
It doesn't concern you.
Or is this part of the interview?
If I say it is, will you give me a straight answer?
Blush
That's not why I...
Of course I want to know the truth
The industry is in an uproar over this leaked story.
No
Yes! It's part of the interview.

Closest to the story...?
I'm the member of the press who's closest to the story!
Gasp
Rise
I don't have to answer to you. No comment.
Step
Cole!
Wait...

I didn't mean it. I've never wanted to exploit our connection.
The way I said it. It was like I'm announcing that I'm trying to use him!
Slump
What have I done ...?
Why is this happening? If only he'd tell it right away.
That's right.... He didn't deny it.
Does that mean he's confirming his marriage to Donna...?

I've never seen him look that angry before.
Yeah.
Did you see that?
Hey, Cole! What's the rush?
Step
Step
Step
I wonder what happened?
Come in!
Knock
Knock
Knock

Don't worry. I'll prove I'm worthy of your expectations.
Cole! Are we reviewing for the press conference already?
Do you have a minute, Donna?
No, it's about something else.
Something else?
If you don't know anything about what I'm going to tell you, it's fine.
But if you do...

Rabble
Rabble
Rabble
Rabble
Rabble
Donna Wade Press Conference
Did you see the decorations at the press table?
It's like a wedding announcement!
Boom
The lights!
Click

Look, Lauren! The media are stunned by Donna. Just as Cole planned.
And Donna is looking right back at him.
What a voice! I can feel it in my bones!
This is how Cole sees her.
Jump

Snap
Snap
Snap
Snap
And TDR Records' CEO, Cole Adams!
Tonight's star, Donna Wade!
Step
Ladies and gentlemen!
A sensational story would be great publicity for Donna's debut.
Huh?
I wonder if this is really all part of Cole's plan?
He didn't deny that they were getting married.
Jon...
You mean the marriage...?
Wait a minute!

Are you and Donna getting married?
The next question is for Mr. Adams.
I don't believe it, Lauren!
Mr. Adams! I'll be direct.
Is it true, Cole? Donna?
This is about her!
Keep your questions about Donna's debut, please.
How does it feel, Donna? This is what you wanted, isn't it?
Cole ....
What do we do? We have to tell them something.

Something else?
If you don't know anything about what I'm going to tell you, it's fine.
But if you do...
!
You know about these, I take it?
Flap
W-What do you mean?
I'll have to reconsider a few things.
You're talented, but you aren't a *star* yet.
There ought to have been a few articles like this before...
I think it's great!
What do you think?
Smile
Oh... It looks like the media believes we're getting married.

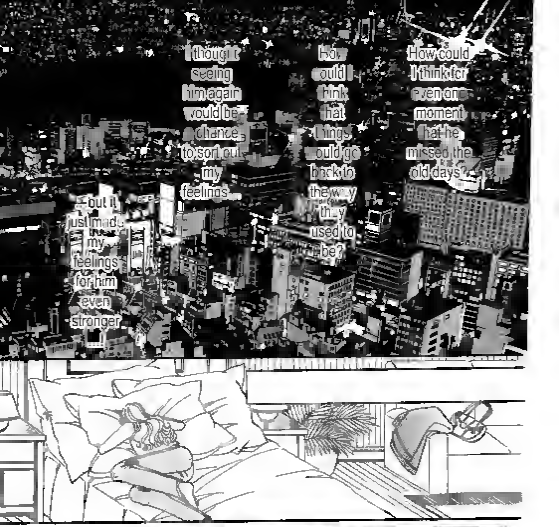
Cole!
A-Are you trying to say—
—that I was the one who leaked the story?
Pound
Pound
Jump
If you try to trick the media—
—they'll crush you.
If you have any proof—
Answer me, Cole!
Sorry. I didn't mean to accuse you.
If you don't know what I'm talking about, it's fine.

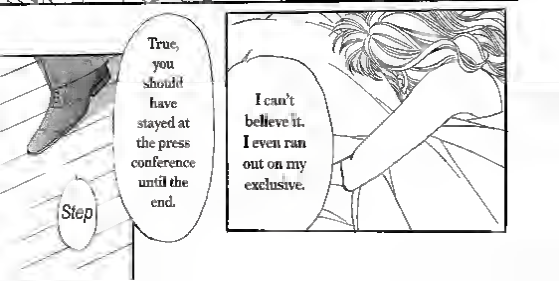
To him I'm probably just a product.
He's a business man. A music industry success story at his age.
I'd forgotten his true face under that calm exterior.
At that moment, I was terrified.
Hmph. He saw right through me.
If he's never going to belong to me, I wanted him to never belong to anyone.
It's your responsibility.
...protect me from this horrid situation.
If you really value me as a "product," Cole...
I may be a product to you, but I'm still top quality!

I'll forgive you if you take care of these hyenas for me.
And you still rejected me.
You're a smart woman, Donna.
Mr. Adams!
Smirk
What's really going on?
Are you getting married?
Are the rumors true?
The way you two are whispering to each other. .

There will be a wedding.
Roar
ガルル

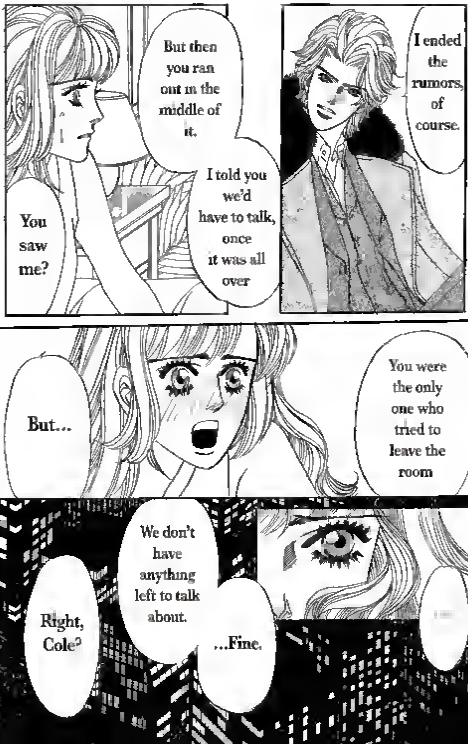
Hey, Lauren! What's going on here?
Dash!
Oh...
!
Then this is the official announcement?
So it's true!
Bump
Wait! Where are you going?
Lauren!


I thought seeing him again would be a chance to sort out my feelings.
How could I think that things could go back to the way they used to be?
How could I think for even one moment that he missed the old days?
...but it just made my feelings for him even stronger.


I can't believe it. I even ran out on my exclusive.
True, you should have stayed at the press conference until the end.
Step

What?

Gasp
Where's the security in this place? I could walk right inside.
Wait! What did you say at the press conference?
Oh, and your front door was unlocked. You should be more careful.
What are you doing here?
Cole!
Huh? What are you talking about? I'm asking what happened at the press conference!
When should we move your things?
Oh, well I suppose you'll be staying with me from now on


You saw me?
But then you ran out in the middle of it.
I told you we'd have to talk, once it was all over
I ended the rumors, of course.
But...
You were the only one who tried to leave the room
Right, Cole?
We don't have anything left to talk about.
...Fine.

I was angry, Lauren!
Grab
You and Donna are getting
I could tell when you didn't deny what the tabloids were writing about.
You were... angry...?
You don't trust me at all
You came to "confirm" the story right away.
That you believed those articles.

T-Trust you?
How can I trust you?
Ha. .
Ha ha ha ha Ha ha ha!
!?
Ha ha ♪ Fump
I can't take any more!
いやもう
Cole!
What's wrong? Are you all right?
Cole...
!

Why can't we ever communicate?
Even though...
...we love each other so much.

My wedding to you.
Yes, I did.
Liar! You announced your wedding at the press conference!
L...
...so you missed my marriage proposal.
You didn't stay until the end.
I said, Lauren Martin ...
...will you marry me?

Cole.
This is my favorite song...
Gasp
I can't take the stage anymore ...
...but at the very least, I can still hum it for you.

I feel like...
..I haven't heard you sing for a long time.
Will you marry me, Lauren?
Yes, Cole.
I can't imagine marrying anyone else.
It has to be you.

Hey, Lauren ...
...did you notice?
The second we saw each other again ...
...we'd fallen in love once more.